

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01274 071201Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----094623 071203Z /75
P 071140Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6426

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1274

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SO, US
SUBJECT: SIAD HOLDS DOOR OPEN FOR MILITARY TEAM; SEEKS BROADER
SCOPE

REF: MOGADISCIO 1264

1. PRESIDENT SIAD RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR FOR A PRE-HOME LEAVE COURTESY CALL LAST NIGHT, JUNE. DURING THE HOUR AND A HALF MIDNIGHT DISCUSSION THE SOMALI LEADER PROFESSED TO BE DISCOURAGED AND CONFUSED BY THE SLOW PROGRESS IN IMPORVING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HE HARKENED REPEATEDLY TO CRITICISMS BY THE US OFFICIALS OF SOMALIA'S ROLE IN THE OGADEN. HE ALSO DECRIED SOVIET PROPAGANDA AND MISINFORMATION WHICH HE SAID PROMPTED INACTION AND A PARALYZING OF WESTERN WILL.

2. ON THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM ITSELF, SAID SAID HE STILL HOPED THE TEAM WOULD COME WITH "AN OPEN MIND". HE ADDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE WELL BRIEFED ON THE REALITY OF THE SOVIET POSITION IN THE HORN AND ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA. REFERRING TO AN EARLIER MEETING THAT SAME EVENING WITH HIS MILITARY ADVISORS, SIAD CONTENTED THEY VOICED SOME SKEPTICISM THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO ORCHESTRATE AN ADEQUATE DEFENSIVE POSTURE TO RESIST AN EVENTUAL SOVIET REVENGE MOVE AGAINST SOMALIA.

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3. SIAD ALSO MENTIONED THAT HIS PROBLEMS WITH THE GSDR BUREAUCRACY WERE STILL CURRENT. HE SAID HE HAD DISCOVERED MANY INDIVIUDALS WHO WERE INCLINED TO ACCEPT SOVIET OVERTURES AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION BEFORE MOSCOW ACTED TO PUNISH SOMALIA FOR ITS ACTION IN NOVEMBER 1977 WHEN THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY WAS ABROGATED.

4. THE SOMALI LEADER REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON HIS PLANS FOR MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN LEADERS LATER THIS MONTH. HE WAS LIKEWISE RETICENT REGARDING HIS HOPES TO VISIT WASHINGTON, NOR WOULD HE COMMENT IN ANY WAY ON THE SEVERAL REPORTS OF IMPENDING CABINET AND SOMALI AMBASSADORIAL CHANGES WHICH ARE NOT MAKING THE ROUNDS IN MOGADISCIO. SIAD WAS ALSO RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF RELIEF, INVESTMENT, OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE DID, HOWEVER, EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GENERAL MOVEMENT IN THE US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND THE SIGNS WHICH HE INTERPRETED AS OUR INTENT TO MOVE PROMPTLY IN THIS AREA.

5. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR FOUND SIAD ALERT AND CORDIAL, BUT DISTURBED BY THE SUCCESSES OF RECENT SOVIET PROPAGANDA. MANY OF THE ARGUMENTS REGARDING THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US WERE REPETITIONS OF POINTS SAID HAS MADE TO PAST INTERLOCUTORS, BUT THE AMBASSADOR FOUND SIAD STILL ACTIVELY SEEKING A LEAD FROM THE USG. THE AMBASSADOR FURTHER THOUGHT SIAD WOULD ACCEPT THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM IF THE US WERE ABLE TO MAKE SOME CONCILIATORY MOVE TOWARD A BROADER FRAME OF REFERENCE.
VOUGHT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI01274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-0843
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwht.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01395e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MOGADISCIO 1264
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2456133
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIAD HOLDS DOOR OPEN FOR MILITARY TEAM; SEEKS BROADER SCOPE
TAGS: MARR, SO, US, (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01395e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014